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29 Graveley Avenue
Boreham Wood
Herts
ENGLAND

Harold Weisberg Esq
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick
Maryland 21701
US of A

Dear Mr Weisberg:

I have been a keen if somewhat desultory student of the JFK assassination since the mid-1960s. I have most of your books here and your work on the subject has always seemed particularly wide-ranging and incisive. Hence this plea for assistance to you.

For the past four years or so I have been working with a colleague - Dick Brewis, Senior Lecturer in English at Redhill College - on a book dealing with the background to what was known as the Profumo Affair. You may recall this British sex-and-spying scandal of 1963 that involved a doctor who committed suicide, a Cabinet Minister who resigned, a Russian Naval Attache who was called back to Moscow, and several hookers. It never occurred to us that there might be any connection between this scandal and JFK's assassination, yet our research has revealed two incidents of potentially related interest.

1. On page 228 of The Oswald File (New York: Clarkson N Potter, 1977) Michael Eddowes reproduces a CIA telegram that was sent from London to Washington on 23 November 1963. The telegram mentions a number of 'phone calls of strangely coincidental nature' that various persons received in this country in connection with Dr Stephen Ward (the Dr of the Profumo Affair, as above) and the scandal. It goes on to report a phone call, anonymous, that was received by the senior reporter of the Cambridge News urging him to phone the American Embassy in London for some 'big news,' only twenty-five minutes before JFK's assassination.

This telegram is not mentioned elsewhere at all in The Oswald File. We have interviewed Eddowes in an attempt to find out more about the telegram and where he got it, without success. It is very difficult to pin Eddowes down on anything and it seems to us that many of his 'conclusions' have no substantive basis in fact. He did tell us that the person who made the call was Albert Osborne aka John Howard Bowen, and said this with some certainty. Our own checking showed the evidence to be rather circumstantial at best, certainly inconclusive.

Do you know where this telegram came from? Was it from a FOIA application? Are there any related documents available? Can you shed any light on it and the subjects it discusses? Do you know anyone who could?

2. On 13 December 1960 a 19-year-old dancer called Mariella Dibben (this was her married name, she was born Capes) left London and went to New York at the behest of an English film/TV producer called Harry Alan Towers who had flown out some weeks earlier. Mariella used as her surname throughout her stay the name Novotny - she claimed before and she has claimed since that she is the niece of the Czech Premier Novotny. On the 23 or 26 December at Hampshire House in New York City she met JFK and commenced an extended affair with him, so she says. She was invited to the party by Peter Lawford whom she had met through Towers. On 4 March 1961 Mariella was arrested for soliciting and Towers for 'controlling' her and receiving money from her that she made while on the game. Some little while later Towers skipped bail and fled to Europe (possibly Prague) and though surveillance was stepped up on Mariella she managed to evade her watchers and stowed away on a ship to return to England.

This is a greatly simplified account of what went on in New York and does leave out some important, if conflicting, matters. Mariella and her husband, Horace Dibben, were great friends of Dr Stephen Ward and they featured in the Profumo Affair as the hosts of several notorious parties/orgies. Dr Ward seems to have been largely instrumental in Mariella going to New York with Towers.

Two years later, in the midst of the Profumo Affair, on 25 June 1963 it was announced that the US Attorney was re-opening the case of Mariella and Towers for possible 'security breaches.' There was also some talk of a possible connection with a call-girl ring at the UN Building in NY and the death of Yvonne Davies.

It has been claimed many times since, principally by Mariella herself, that she was 'used' in an attempt to discredit the President-Elect, a possible explanation of the Novotny business. That the plan backfired and that she and Towers were arrested on trumped-up charges in order to take the heat of the President and get her and Towers out of the country.

Do you know of this series of incidents and could there be, no matter how tenuous, a connection between them and JFK's assassination? Were there any other attempts to discredit JFK before the 'final solution'? Is there any JFK student who has re-evaluated the President's affaires in the light of the assassination and possible attempts to discredit him?

I am sorry to machine-gun you with questions, but you may appreciate at what a tremendous disadvantage we are working over here. If you can give us any help whatsoever we would be very indebted to you. And if there is any help we can give you over here we would be glad to reciprocate.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Anthony Frewin. Anthony Frewin